

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks wherein Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 are amended, and new Claims 13 and 14 are added. Currently, Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

As an initial matter, Applicants express gratitude for the indication of allowable subject matter with regard to Claims 2-5. As a result, new Claims 13 and 14 are added that include the subject matter of Claim 2 and Claims 1 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, allowance of Claims 13 and 14 is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 are objected to for containing informalities. As a result, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 are amended to remove these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,186,246 to *Muuttonen*.

The present invention pertains to a rock drilling machine and an axial bearing for a percussion rock drilling machine, as defined in independent Claims 1 and 12. Independent Claims 1 and 12 both recite first and second pistons, wherein between the pistons, axial contact surfaces are located in the same pressure space, and the same pressure fluid fed to the axial bearing is arranged to act on the piston contact surfaces and pressure surfaces. An advantage of present invention is that the axial contact surfaces between the pistons continuously have a good lubrication achieved by means of the pressure fluid, preventing wear of the contact surfaces. In addition, the pressure fluid may serve as an efficient damper between the axial bearing from one pressure duct, whereby the number of ducts may be small and the structure may be simple. None of the art of record discloses these patentable features.

In contrast, *Muuttonen et al.* discloses an axial bearing wherein pressure fluid is fed through a pressure duct (17a) to pressure surfaces of a first piston (14a) and a second piston (14b). Between the first piston (14a) and the second piston (14b), there is a sealing ring, whereby the pressure fluid fed from the pressure duct (17a) cannot flow towards the percussion direction and act on contact surfaces between the first and second piston. As such, *Muuttonen et al.* fails to disclose the feature that the same pressure fluid fed to the axial bearing is arranged to act on the piston contact surfaces and pressure surfaces, as defined in independent Claims 1 and 12.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the rock drilling machine and axial bearing of independent Claims 1 and 12, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the applied document. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted at the number indicated below.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

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